

## Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

McCRANIE, JAMES R. 1986. *Crotalus unicolor*.

***Crotalus unicolor* Van Lidth de Jeude  
Aruba Island rattlesnake**

*Crotalus horridus* var. *unicolor* Van Lidth de Jeude, 1887:133.

Type-locality, "Aruba" [Aruba Island, Netherlands Antilles]. Syntypes, Rijksmuseum Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden 613, adult female, collected by Neervoort van de Poll, in 1885, and RMNH 1579, adult male, collector and date unknown (Brongersma, 1940) (neither examined by author).

*Crotalus terrificus*: Boulenger, 1896:573 (part).

*Crotalus pulvis* Ditmars, 1905:199. Type-locality, "twenty miles inland from Managua, Nicaragua, in a very dry, sandy district" [in error, see Gloyd, 1940]. Holotype, Mus. Comp. Zool. Harvard 7044, an adult male, collected by Robert Schilling in 1906 (not examined by author).

*Crotalus terrificus durissus*: Amaral, 1929:243 (part).

*Crotalus unicolor*: Klauber, 1936:4.

*Crotalus terrificus terrificus*: Amaral, 1937:161 (part).

*Crotalus durissus unicolor*: Brongersma, 1940:131.

• CONTENT. The species is monotypic.

• DEFINITION AND DIAGNOSIS. *Crotalus unicolor* is a stunted species related to *C. durissus*, ranging in size from about 230 mm at birth to 970 mm in the largest known specimen. Adults are pale gray or pale grayish brown dorsally with faint or nearly indistinguishable dorsal rhombs. Longitudinal stripes on the rear part of the head and on the neck are faintly evident in some adults and indistinguishable in others. When evident, the dorsal rhombs num-

ber 18 to 28. The venter is white or cream-colored. The tail is darker gray than the body. Juveniles have distinct dorsal rhombs and longitudinal stripes on the rear part of the head and on the neck. Traces of a frontal crossbar, a dark supraocular stripe, and 5-6 caudal crossbands are evident in some juveniles. All of these markings fade with age. Scutellation is as follows: 25-27 (usually 27) scale rows at midbody, all keeled except for the lowest 1-3; 155-164 ventrals in males, 163-169 in females; 26-31 subcaudals in males, 22-25 in females; 11-15 supralabials; 12-16 infralabials (first frequently divided); 2 preoculars. The rostral is triangular and higher than wide. The internasals are paired. The prefrontals are paired, in contact medially, and are larger than the internasals. Posterior to the prefrontals (frontal area) there are two large scales bordered posteriorly by smaller irregular scales in rows. Posterior to these irregular scales there is a pair of larger scales (vestiges of parietals) bordering the supraoculars. The remainder of the head is covered by small and fairly regular scales. The first supralabial contacts the prenasal. There are 1-3 loreals on each side of the head. A vertebral ridge is present in adults but is less pronounced than in *Crotalus durissus*.

*Crotalus unicolor* differs from *C. durissus* in that the dorsal rhombs and the pair of longitudinal stripes present on the head and neck of *durissus* are largely absent in adult *unicolor* because of a faded color pattern. *Crotalus unicolor* is also a smaller species than *durissus*, with the largest known specimen of *unicolor* 970 mm in total length. *Crotalus unicolor* differs from *C. vegrandis*, another stunted species closely related to *durissus*, in that the latter has numerous scattered white-tipped scales on the head and body.

• DESCRIPTIONS. The scutellation and color pattern of *Crotalus unicolor* were described by Gloyd (1936, 1940) and Kauffeld and Gloyd (1939). Brongersma (1940) described in detail the color pattern of a juvenile and also provided a short color description of three adults. Tables on variation in scutellation were provided by Brongersma (1940), Gloyd (1940), and Klauber (1972).

• ILLUSTRATIONS. Black and white illustrations are found in Anonymous (1977), Brongersma (1940), Glenn and Straight (1982), Gloyd (1940), Harris and Simmons (1977, 1978), Kauffeld and Gloyd (1939), Klauber (1972, 1982), Moore et al. (1968), and Realino (1938). Ditmars (1905, 1910) and Amaral (1926) included black and white illustrations of the holotype of *Crotalus pulvis*. Klauber (1972) included a black and white photograph of a hybrid *Crotalus s. scutulatus* × *C. unicolor*. Harris and Simmons (1977) provided a photograph of "typical habitat" of the species on Aruba Island.

• DISTRIBUTION. The species is endemic to Aruba Island in the Netherlands Antilles, where it is confined to a small portion of the island. According to Hudson (1984) "their home range has been reduced to only several square miles of undisturbed habitat." *Crotalus unicolor* was erroneously recorded from Curaçao Island by de Rooij (1922).

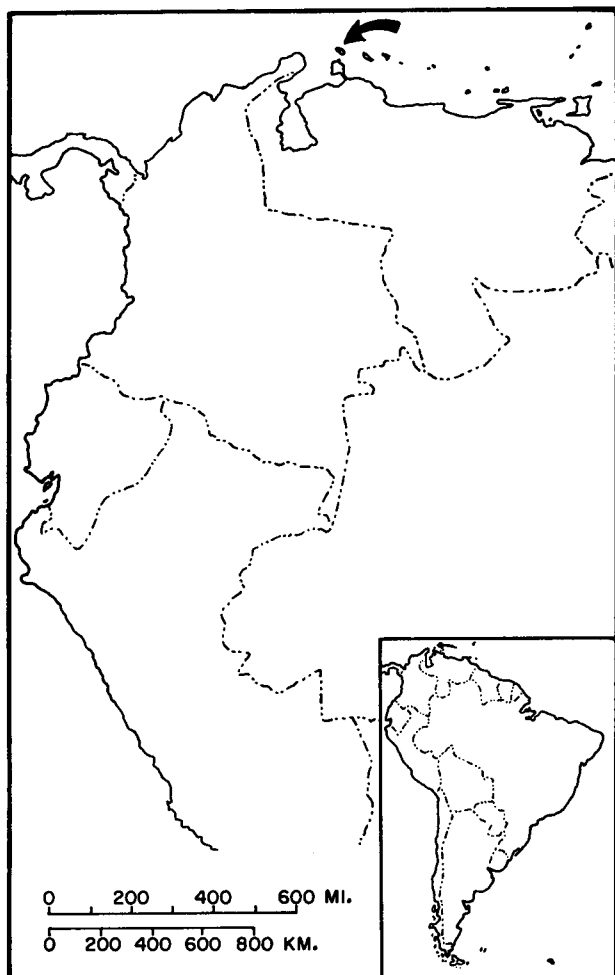
• FOSSIL RECORD. None.

• PERTINENT LITERATURE. Klauber (1972) provided data on the biology of the species. Gloyd (1940) and Brongersma (1940) included synonymies and Amaral (1944) reviewed the literature on the species. Carl et al. (1982) provided data on reproduction in captivity and O'Connell et al. (1982) gave information on feeding behavior in captivity. Longevity in captivity is given by Bowler (1977). Klauber (1972) provided information on a hybrid *Crotalus s. scutulatus* × *C. unicolor*. Fischman et al. (1972) gave information on the chromosomes of the species.

• ETYMOLOGY. The specific name *unicolor* is derived from the Latin words *uni* (meaning one) and *color* (meaning color) and refers to the faded color pattern of the species.

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MAP. Arrow points to Aruba Island, Netherlands Antilles, the home of *Crotalus unicolor*.

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- JAMES R. McCranie, 10770 SW 164TH ST., MIAMI, FLORIDA 33157.
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